

NEW RECORDS OF SPIDERS (ARACHNIDA: ARANEAE) FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The spider fauna of South Australia is largely unknown due to a lack of systematic collecting over the years. Few studies have been published and these are based on material collected incidentally to other groups^{1,2,3,4,5,6}. Thus the larger and wandering spiders are better known than cryptic and nocturnal species.

Seventeen spiders are recorded here, including two families and eight genera previously unrecorded in South Australia. Voucher specimens have been deposited in the South Australian Museum. The family placement of genera follows Davies (1985)⁷, and Brignoli (1983)⁸ for families not covered by Davies (1985).

Family: Hahniidae.

Scotospilus bicolor Simon, 1886

These spiders superficially resemble small *Nicodamus* but are much smaller and live under gum bark. Known previously from Tasmania⁹, the family is characterized by a transverse row of spinnerets. The specimens collected were from Aldgate (35°01'S, 138°44'E) under gum bark (SAM N1985117).

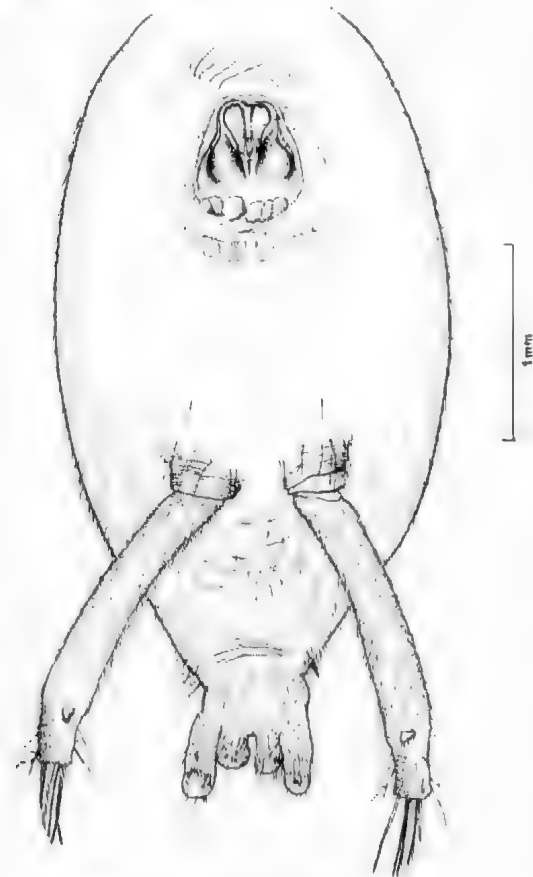


Fig. 1. Ventral view of ?*Honunius*.

Family: Gnaphosidae.

? *Honunius* Simon, 1908

Generally accepted now to be in the Gnaphosidae⁸. Female spider collected in a pitfall trap from the Toolache Waterhole region (28°21'S, 140°25'E, SAM N1985120). The specimen has very long anterior spinnerets starting mid-ventrally (Fig. 1). Long spinning tubes are present on the anterior spinnerets. The posterior spinnerets are moderately long, thus distinguishing the genus from *Myandra* and *Molycha*. *Honunius quadricauda* (the type species) was described from a single male from Harvey, W.A. The long spinning tubes were not noted. The female remains unknown.

Also of note with this specimen are the structures on the terminal joints of the mid-ventral spinnerets, one on each joint (Fig. 1). No large spinneret sensory organs are noted in the literature so their function remains unknown.

Lampona scutata Strand, 1913

Collected in pitfall traps at Hambidge Conservation Park (33°24'S, 135°55'E, SAM N1985118), Granite Downs (26°56'S, 133°30'E) and the lake edge of Lake Hart (31°40'S, 136°40'E). The latter specimen was in an old kangaroo skull.

L. scutata is similar in shape to the common *L. cylindrata*. Juveniles have a bright orange cephalothorax with bright orange scutes on the dorsal and ventral abdomen. Mature specimens are dark red with darker scutes. The type locality is "Zentral-Australien"⁶. I have been unable to locate any literature record of the species since the description.

Lampona asperirma Hekman, 1950

A mature female was pitfall trapped at Muckera (30°02'S, 130°03'E, SAM N1985119). Known only from Reevesby Island². Similar to *L. scutata* but it differs in eye arrangement, relative spinneret lengths and genitalia.

Family: Araneidae.

Dolophones thomisoides Rainbow, 1915

A specimen was collected in a pitfall trap at Muckera on the Nullarbor (30°02'S, 130°03'E, SAM N1985123). Originally described from "Moorilyanna Native Well, Central Australia" (26°52'S, 133°01'E)³. I have not located any subsequent literature records.

Araneus psittacinus (Koch, 1887)

A number of these orb weavers have been found in the Adelaide Hills and suburbs (SAM N1985124-N1985125). Almost the entire body is bright green with a variable pattern on the dorsal abdomen. Some have no pattern, some have a yellow stripe, some have bright red spots and still others have white or yellow stripes with a bright red border. Some have a longitudinal stripe, some a transverse one. Both males and females have been found with different colour patterns. Examination of the genitalia indicates they are conspecific.

Family: Mimelidae.

Areys simsoni (Simon, 1893)

An adult collected on honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) at Aldgate (35°01'S, 138°44'E, SAM N1985126). Numerous young were on the surrounding bushes. Their cephalothorax and abdomen colours ranged from black and white to a deep red shade. Colour variation in this genus has been reported¹⁰.

Areys walckenaeri Simon, 1879

Male and females of this spider have been found on shrubs at Aldgate and Bridgewater (SAM N1985127/128). *A. walckenaeri* is recorded from eastern Australia, W.A. and Java¹¹. The W.A. record is dubious (B. Y. Main pers. comm.).

Family: Theridiidae.

Pharocidia triluberculata (Hickman, 1951)

Specimens were collected at Aldgate (35°01'S, 138°44'E, SAM N1985129). The type locality is Launceston¹², Tasmania, which suggests that the species will occur in Victoria. The spiders were found on a single vertical line of silk, about 3/4 of the way to the top. One had its line between two leaves on a fence of honeysuckle, the others between two pieces of bark on a pine tree.

Pharocidia sextuberculata (Keyserling, 1890)

Two specimens have been found on bushes at Bridgewater and Aldgate (SAM N1985130). Known previously from N.S.W. and Qld.^{12,13}

Family: Thomisidae.

Saccodomus formivorus Rainbow, 1900

Several specimens were collected in January on different plants in the middle of a large paddock in the Middleback region near Whyalla (32°57'S, 137°24'E, SAM N1985131-N1985132). They were found in small web-cases¹⁴. There were numerous ants (*Iridomyrmex purpureus*) on the plants and spiders were seen to eat these. A number of the spiders had web-cases joined together, living semi-communally. Previously recorded from three locations in N.S.W.¹⁴ this species may be more widely distributed than records suggest. The genus is also known from Queensland (V. Davies, pers. comm.).

Bomis larvata Koch, 1873

Two males and two females collected at Aldgate (35°01'S, 138°44'E, SAM N1985133-N1985134). Colours vary in the females: one is brown whereas the other has bright green legs and cephalothorax and a white abdomen. Unfortunately, the original description did not figure the female genitalia. Both these females have identical genitalia. The brown female was on brown reeds and the green female was on a greeny-blue wormwood shrub.

Cymbacha festiva Koch, 1874

Specimens collected at Aldgate and in Adelaide suburbs (SAM N1983135). The species is common in the eastern states^{13,15}. Also reported from S. Aust. is a six-spotted *Cymbacha*¹⁶, although some young *C. festiva* also appear to have six-spots.

Sidyrella sp.

The only member of this genus reported in S. Aust. is

Sidyrella trapezia (Koch, 1873). It is common all over Australia¹⁵. Two specimens from Aldgate and Bridgewater (SAM N1985136) differ in being hirsute. They also differ from the only described hirsute member, *S. hirsuta* (Koch, 1873), in having two long posterior projections from the abdomen. They superficially resemble the undescribed specimen photographed by Mascord (1980, p. 99, No. 6).

Family: Philodromidae.

Tibellus sp.

Specimens of this genus have been found on a grass tussock in a dry creek-bed at Granite Downs (26°56'S, 133°30'E, SAM N1985229). They differ from the only described Australian species, *T. tenellus* (Koch, 1876), and superficially appear to differ from the undescribed species shown in Mascord (1980). It is likely that it is a new species. These are the first reported members of the family Philodromidae in S.A.

Family: Miturgidae.

Miturga agelenina Simon, 1909

Specimens collected at Hughes (30°35'S, 129°30'E, SAM N1985138-N1985139). They are well known from W.A. and the Eastern states^{13,17}. Only reported in S.A. from Reevesby Island². Specimens were found in pairs in the web.

Family: Zoridae.

Thasyroea sp.

Specimens of this spider have been found at Aldgate, Stirling and Bridgewater (SAM N1985137), all in the Adelaide Hills. They are also known to be widespread in South Australia (D. Hirst, pers. comm.).

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¹Hickman, V. V. (1944) Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. 68, 18-48.

²Hickman, V. V. (1950) Proc. R. Soc. Vic. 60, 1-16.

³Hogg, H. R. (1896) *Araneidae*. In Report of the Horn Expedition to Central Australia, Pt 2. Zoology, 309-356.

⁴Pulleine, R. H. (1914) Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. 38, 447-448.

⁵Rainbow, W. J. (1915) Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust. 39, 772-792.

⁶Strand, F. (1913) Zoologische Jahrbücher 35, 599-624.

⁷Davies, V. T. (1985) Araneomorphae. In "Zoological Catalogue of Australia, Vol. 3, Arachnida" (Australian Government Printing Service, Canberra).

⁸Brignoli, P. M. (1983) "A Catalogue of the Araneae described between 1940 and 1981" (Manchester University Press, Manchester).

⁹Hickman, V. V. (1948) Pap. Proc. R. Soc. Tas. 1948, 21-35.

- ¹⁰**Clyne, D.** (1969) "Australian Spiders" (Nelson, Melbourne).
- ¹¹**Heimer, S.** (1984) *Entomologische Abhandlungen* 47, 155-178.
- ¹²**Hickman, V. V.** (1951) *Pap. Proc. R. Soc. Tas.* 1950, 3-24.
- ¹³**Mascord, R.** (1980) "Spiders of Australia" (Reed, Sydney).
- ¹⁴**Rainbow, W. J.** (1900) *Rec. Aust. Mus.* 3, 169-175.
- ¹⁵**Rainbow, W. J.** (1911) *Rec. Aust. Mus.* 9, 107-319.
- ¹⁶**Lee, D. & Southcott, R. V.** (1979) "Spiders and other arachnids of South Australia" (South Australian Museum, Adelaide).
- ¹⁷**Simon, E.** (1909) *Araneae*, 2nd part. *In* Michaelsen, W. & Kartmeyer, R. (Eds.) "Die Fauna Sud-West Australiens", pp. 155-212 (Fischer, Jena).

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**CELAENIA ATKINSONI (ARACHNIDA, ARANEAE): NEW RECORD FOR
SOUTH AUSTRALIA WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE MALE**

BY BERNARD GUERIN

Summary

Male and female *Celaenia atkinsoni* (Pickard-Cambridge) were collected from the Adelaide Hills. These represent the first record of this species for South Australia and provide an opportunity to describe the previously unknown male of the species.